

**SUBJECT:**                **THE DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Supersedes:**

**Effective:**                **February 12, 2009**

**Page:**                      1 of 3

**Approved by:**            Detroit Board of Education

**1.0    Policy**

Participation in athletic programs in Detroit Public Schools (DPS) is considered an honor and a privilege that entails an obligation by students to an individual school, DPS, and the community. This Code is in effect year round (12 months) and participants are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times, including functions that occur outside of school.

The DPS Athletic Code of Conduct has been developed and implemented to provide a common set of rules for all students participating in athletics. The Athletic Code of Conduct deals with specific violations that should be applied within every program; however, the code is not intended to be all-inclusive. If no penalty is listed in the code, the Board of Education, General Superintendent or coach has the authority to determine the penalty (consistent with the philosophy of the code).

All DPS students are governed by the Uniform Code of Student Conduct. In addition, student-athletes are further governed by the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), the Detroit Board of Education policy on Interscholastic Athletics, league rules and specific team rules.

**CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

*Enforcement of this section will take place year round and shall involve violations of this Code that occur outside of regular school functions.*

A. Substance Use - Students participating in athletic programs are prohibited from the use, possession, or transmittal of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any drug substance not prescribed to the student by a doctor. Excellent physical and mental condition is necessary for high performance as well as to protect the personal health and safety of the participant.

B. Conduct - Students are expected to demonstrate the highest level of conduct at all times. All students participating in athletic programs are to display personal control under practice, contest, and spectator conditions toward their teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and other spectators.

## **CONDUCT CONSEQUENCES**

Sanctions for violating the Athletic Code of Conduct are set forth below. In the event that the Code or other school policies do not cover the situations that arise, the administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and penalties to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances. A single violation may be deemed severe enough by school administration as to warrant the enforcement of a single violation as if it were a second or third violation. The building principal and/or his/her designee may suspend or exclude a student from participation in a program.

- A. First Offense – After confirmation of a violation (by the student, their parent/guardian, or a school official), the student will not be allowed to participate in athletics for 20% of the regular season contests. If less than 20% of the regular season remains, the suspension will carryover to any post season contests in that sport. If the student is unable to complete the suspension within the current sport season, the suspension will be prorated into the next sport in which the student participates and completes the season in good standing, even though it may carry over into the next school year.
  
- B. Second Offense – After confirmation of a second violation (by the student, their parent/guardian, or a school official), the student will not be allowed to participate in athletics for 50% of the regular season contests. If less than 50% of the regular season remains, the suspension will carryover to any post season contests in that sport. If the student is unable to complete the suspension within the current sport season, the suspension will be prorated into the next sport in which the student participates and completes the season in good standing, even though it may carry over into the next school year.
  
- C. Third Offense – After confirmation of a third violation, the student will be dismissed from that team and be excluded from all athletic participation for one calendar year.

## **APPEAL PROCEDURES**

Appeals of any section of this Code must be in writing and initiated by a student or their parents/guardians. Appeals must first be directed to the building principal.

1. A request for an appeal shall be made within three (3) days of the date action was taken and must be made in writing stating the adjustments being requested and the reasons therefore.
  
2. The student and/or the student's parents/guardians and affected teachers or coaches have a right to be present at all review hearings and must be notified in advance of the time and place. Both the affected student and the administration have a right to present witnesses at all review hearings.

3. Based on review of the appeal, the building principal will adjust, revoke, or sustain the action.
4. The building principal shall decide the activities in which the student shall be permitted to participate pending the outcome of the appeal.
5. In cases where action was taken directly by the principal and/or cases where dissatisfaction exists with the results of the review hearing by the principal, an appeal may be made within three (3) days in writing to the Executive Director of Instruction of that building. The review hearing must be held within three (3) days of receipt of the appeal.
6. The student and/or parents/guardians will be notified of the results of the appeal within 24 hours.

**Attachments to Policy:** None

**See also** **Detroit Board of Education Interscholastic Athletics Policy**

**Handbook of the Michigan High School Athletic Association**

**Legal References:**

**Labor Contract References:** None